

THE NATIONAL DELEGATES.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CANDIDATES

URGING UP THE CHANCES,

The Bitterness Against Blaine—The Bad

Management of His Friends—A Guess at

The Next Bluff.

[Letter to the Philadelphia Times.]

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Political cir-

cles here are more excited over the re-

ports coming in from States that have

elected their delegates to the Repub-

lican National Convention than at any

time since the canvas opened. Calcu-

lations of two weeks ago are not ex-

actly borne out by results and the

friends of Mr. Blaine are the most con-

fused, while on the other hand the fol-

lowers of Arthur are considerably elated over what they now claim.

enough votes to command the situation

sufficiently with the aid of the other

candidates, to wrench the prize from

Blaine. While the numerical strength

of Arthur will come principally from

the South—that from other quarters

being more complimentary than real—it

is still claimed that his supporters

will number enough to encourage the

other candidates to make common

cause with him to get rid of Blaine.

This is just the condition of affairs the

enemies of Blaine have been waiting

for and what they now assert they

were instrumental in producing in or-

der to effect their purpose.

BITTERNESS AGAINST BLAINE.

There is no disputing the bitterness

against Blaine, and since the recent

attacks on Edmunds it has been very

largely intensified, particularly in New

England, even reaching into his own

State, from whence a delegation of men

hectored his friends, will go to Chi-

cago to protest against his nomination.

Representative Republicans of the same

class will also go from Vermont, Mas-

sachusetts, Rhode Island and New

Hampshire. These influences will be

independent of the regular delegates,

and it would be folly to say that they

will exert no power in the choice of

the convention.

Ex-Congressman Harris, of Massa-

cussets, who was here lately, said

that while a friend of Blaine he was in

grave doubt whether he could carry

Massachusetts if nominated; but this

is not likely, as in such an emergency

Ben Butler would carry through Demo-

crats to his support to save the State;

besides, the good sense of the Repub-

licans will never permit such a

disaster.

BAD MANAGEMENT.

As your readers know, the same

antagonists who have taken shape in New

York, with Pennsylvania and other

States ready to follow suit when the

expedited nomination arrives. Add all

the time the bungling management of his

friends, as illustrated in your State and

theirs in Maryland and Iowa, and the

speculations for his nomination are

deepening and spreading every day.

With nothing but the most skillful

generalship can change Lamontale

as all this presents itself, it is still more

so when the fact is taken into consider-

ation that some of the most active

workers against Mr. Blaine to-day are

made up of men who stood the brunt

of his struggle at the two former con-

ventions.

Of course the great mass of the party

have had no opportunity of learning

the causes underlying this condition of

affairs. They teach of him only as he

appears in all the brilliancy and magni-

ficence of his intellect and in the won-

derful originality of his conception of

public affairs. As he stands out before

them even his enemies concede the

beneficial possibilities of an adminis-

trator under his guidance. The trou-

ble is simply in the man—that he lacks

that great essential to all true nobility

of character—fidelity; and that for an

instant he would violate a pledge as

readily as he would make a new one

to serve it and then forget that there

was obligation involved in either.

Such are the ways of politics, and what

a commentary they furnish on the

weak side of human nature.

With proper management, however, with

his forces skilfully mobilized and so

held together for three or four ballots,

all this opposition would be compelled

to yield.

THE FIRST BALLOT.

Men who are accustomed to calculate

political chances and who have had the

run of the preferences of delegates so

far elected, say that the vote on the

first ballot will probably be decided

between the prominent candidates as

follows:

Blaine about.....340

Arthur about.....250

the balance scattered between

Edmunds, Sherman, Logan, Fairchild (of

Wisconsin); Hawley and Grant.

It is further claimed that if Blaine's vote

is increased on the second ballot to 370,

the "big top" of Arthur's following

will break away and nominate him for

the third ballot. Should there be any

wavering, the signs of weakness

on the second ballot, then his chances

will be hopelessly gone and the bitter-

ness of the party will be sure to follow.

With all probability being forward a new

man, not exactly an experimental

statesman but one of whom the people

are just now not expecting, will be

the result.

It is whispered among the knowing

ones that if Blaine can keep in hand

enough votes to control the situation

and dispose of them as he wishes he

will spring General Sherman on the

convention and calculate on the enthu-

siasm of the moment to nominate him

without a ballot.

General Sherman, of course, will

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